



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI 2005-08

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Summer Food Service Program sponsors sought

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster announced that the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is seeking sponsors for a program that provides free meals to economically disadvantaged children during school summer vacations for the 2005 program year.

“Continuing to provide nutritionally balanced meals during the summer months for our state’s economically disadvantaged children stimulates appropriate physical and cognitive growth, and helps educate children about good nutrition,” Burmaster said.

The DPI has administered the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) since its inception in 1975. The agency contracts with public and private schools; nonprofit organizations; city, county, and tribal governments; and other organizations to feed low-income children during the summer months. Nationally, more than 28 million children eat school lunch daily when school is in session, and about half of them receive their meals free or at a reduced price because they are from families with low household incomes. The summer program offers them nutritious food when school is not in session.

Last year, Wisconsin’s 96 summer food sponsors served approximately 1.3 million meals at more than 400 sites. For the 2005 program year, sponsors may be:

- public or private nonprofit schools;
- public or private nonprofit residential camps;
- local, municipal, county, tribal, or state governments;
- public or private nonprofit colleges or universities that participate in the National Youth Sports Program;
- Upward Bound programs;
- libraries; or
- private nonprofit organizations (under special conditions).

(more)

Applications for the Summer Food Service Program will be completed on-line this year. The 2005 Training Registration and Training Materials Request Form is available at < <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dfm/fns/doc/trnbroc.doc> > and must be sent or faxed to DPI by Feb. 18. New sponsors are required to attend training on March 11 in Madison. Continuing sponsors for the 2005 summer program are invited to choose a training session on March 4 in Rhinelander, March 7 or 8 in Oak Creek, March 22 or 23 in Madison, or March 16 or 17 in Rice Lake.

Meals for the Summer Food Service Program must be served in accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, which prohibits institutions from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any U.S. Department of Agriculture-related activity should write to the USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Additional information about the Summer Food Service Program is available from Amy Kolano, (608) 266-7124 or at < <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dfm/fns/sfsp1.html> >.

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